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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

July 23, 2002

Mr. Dave McCarthy
Atlantic Richfield Company
307 E Park Ave.
Anaconda, Montana 59711

SUBJECT: Draft Community Relations Plan, Yerington Mine Closure, Lyon County, Nevada

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has received and evaluated the **Draft Community Relations Plan, Yerington Mine Closure, Lyon County, Nevada**, dated June 13, 2002, regarding the continued environmental investigation of the Yerington Mine, located in Lyon County near Yerington Nevada. This office provides the following comments from NDEP, EPA, BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other technical representatives of the Yerington Technical Work Group (YTWG).

General Comments

The intent of developing a good relationship with the community is to provide an opportunity for community members to provide input into the process, as well as to keep the public informed. Much of the draft Community Relations Plan (CRP) focuses on providing information to the community not on encouraging the community to provide their input.

All fact sheets, newsletters, press releases, meeting agendas, and meeting minutes should be posted on a NDEP website which will be developed and maintained by NDEP personnel.

Specific Comments

- 1) Page 1; Please provide a Site overview, including a description of the problem. General description of what's been done and what may be done. Also, include an overview of the Yerington area and other areas possibly affected including who lives here, other local information, past mining information, etc.
- 2) Page 1, Agencies with Oversight Responsibilities; The following sentence should be modified or deleted: AThe MOU designates the NDEP as the lead regulatory agency for site closure activities.@The MOU designates NDEP as the lead coordinating agency not as the lead regulatory agency for the Site investigation, cleanup and closure activities. At this time negotiations are underway between BLM and NDEP regarding which agency/agencies will have an enforcement lead over the Site.
- 3) Page 1; EPA and BLM should also be listed as contacts. Please list Vicki Rosen as the EPA contact (415-972-3244).
- 4) Page 2, Community Input into Plan; It is necessary to describe what community input has been received. The text does not include any reference to community concerns, desires, etc. Generally community interviews are used to develop this section. As discussed at the June 13th Technical Workgroup Meeting, many of the community members who would be candidates for interviews already attend the quarterly Stakeholder and/or monthly Technical Workgroup meetings. A sample list of questions is included as an attachment. The text should summarize some of these concerns as have been expressed at meetings. Other interviews, with community members who do not attend the regularly scheduled meetings, should be completed to supplement this section.
- 5) Page 3, Newsletters; Add a summary of the stakeholder review process for the newsletter. For example, possibly plan for a ten to fourteen day review cycle.
- 6) Page 3, Public Meetings; Include some possible locations for meetings. Generally this would be based on input from community interviews.
- 7) Page 3, Mailing List; EPA will provide a copy of their mailing list after asking permission from list members.
- 8) Page 4, Information Repositories; Include more detail regarding the maintenance of the repository as well as those responsible for this activity. Please also provide addresses for the BLM and EPA offices where the community can also review the files.

Accordingly, please provide the **Final Community Relations Plan, Yerington Mine Closure, Lyon County, Nevada**, which incorporates the above comments. This information must be received not later than August 23, 2002 as per the previously agreed submittal schedule.

Should you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (775) 687-4670 ext. 3056 or FAX (775) 687-6396. All future correspondence regarding this subject should be addressed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Arthur G. Gravenstein, P.E.
Staff Engineer
Remediation Branch
Bureau of Corrective Action

cc: Ms. Jennifer Carr, NDEP
Mr. Doug Zimmerman, NDEP
Yerington Technical Work Group
Yerington Stakeholders Group

cc: w/enclosure

Mr. Brad Shipley, Project Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, 5665 Morgan Mill Road, Carson City, NV 89701

Ms. Molly Mayo, Senior Mediator, Meridian Institute, P.O. Box 1829 Dillon, CO 80435

Mr. Elwood Emm, Chairman, Yerington Paiute Tribe, 607 W. Bridge St., Yerington, NV 89447

Mr. Robert Quintero, Chariman, Walker River Paiute Tribe, P.O. Box 220, Schurz, NV 89427

Mr. Tad Williams, Environmental Director, Walker River Paiute Tribe, P.O. Box 220, Schurz, NV 89427

Mr. Stanley Wiemeyer, U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1340 Financial Blvd, Suite 234, Reno, NV 89502-7147

Mr. John Krause, Environmental Coordinator, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Phoenix Area Office, P.O. Box 10, Phoenix, AZ 85001

Ms. Bonnie Arthur, Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Ms. Phyllis Hunewill, Commissioner, Lyon County, 31 South Main Street, Yerington, NV 89447 Mr.

Steve Snyder, County Manager, Lyon County, 31 South Main Street, Yerington, NV 89447

Mr. Dan Newell, Manager, City of Yerington, 102 South Main Street, Yerington, NV

Mr. Bob McQuivey, Habitat Bureau Chief, Nevada Division of Wildlife, 1100 Valley Road, Reno, NV 89520

Ms. Libby Levy, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Ms. Bonnie Arthur, Project Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,

Enclosure (1): Community Involvement Plan Community Member Interviews – Typical Questions